

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 04338 131357Z

62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 HEW-02 L-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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SUBJ: PROBLEMS AT A BOGOTA UNIV POSE BASIC QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE  
EDUCATION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. A LOCALIZED PROTEST BY SOME STUDENTS AND  
FACULTY MEMBERS AT THE PRIVATE JORGE TADEO LOZANO UNIV OF BOGOTA  
OVER UTILIZATION OF FUNDS HAS FINALLY DEVELOPED INTO A BITTER  
DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MIN OF EDUCATION AND THE BOARD OF DIREC-  
TRSS OF THE UNIV WHICH RAISES QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE DEGREE  
OF INDEPENDENCE TO BE ENJOYED BY ALL PRIVATE SCHOOLS. END SUMMARY

2. A SIT IN BY THE PRIVATE JORGE TADEO LOZANO UNIV BY SOME  
STUDENTS AND FACULTY IN JAN WHICH PROTESTED THE MANNER IN WHICH  
UNIV FUNDS WERE UTILIZED LED TO STUDENT STRIKES AND CONFRONTATION  
BETWEEN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE STUDENT BODY DURING FEB,  
MAR AND APR. ON APR 28 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCED THAT,  
DUE TO CONTINUED STUDENT AGITATION AND DESTRUCTION TO THE PHYSICAL  
PLANT, THE UNIV WOULD CLOSE INDEFINITELY. RECRIMINATIONS BY STUDENTS  
AND FACULTY FOLLOWED WHICH FOCUSSED ON THE QUESTION OF PROFIT-MAKING  
BY THE TADEO LOZANO AND BY PRIVATE EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN GENERAL.

3. THE MIN OF EDUCATION, HERNANDO DURAN DUSSAN THEN INTERVENED

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 04338 131357Z

WITH A LETTER TO THE BOARD STATING THAT THE GOVT WOULD NOT ALLOW

THE CLOSING. THE MIN SET FORTH EIGHT POINTS DESCRIBING THE GOVT'S NEW CONCEPT REGARDING PRIVATE EDUCATION, CENTRAL TO WHICH ARE THE IDEAS THAT ALL EDUCATION IS A PUBLIC SERVICE; EVEN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES MUST HAVE GOVT PERMISSION TO OPEN AND CLOSE; PAYMENT OF TUITION BY A STUDENT CREATES A CONTRACT WHICH OBLIGATES THE UNIV TO PROVIDE UNINTERRUPTED EDUCATION; AND THE GOVT IS OBLIGATED TO PROTECT THE SOCIAL INTERESTS OF STUDENTS WHEN THEY ARE IN CONFLICT WITH PRIVATE INTERESTS OF EDUCATORS. THE MIN'S LETTER WAS GENERALLY CRITICAL OF THE BOARD AND DISREGARDED DISRUPTION ON THE PART OF THE STUDENTS. REPLYING TO THE MIN, THE TADEO LOZANO DIRECTORS SENT A LETTER DIRECTLY TO PRES LOPEZ WHICH ATTACKED THE MIN FOR HIS LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF UNIV AFFAIRS AND ASKED THAT THE PRES RESOLVE THE CRISIS.

4. MEANWHILE, THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE MIN'S LETTER DREW THE ATTENTION OF OTHER EDUCATORS. THE DIRECTOR OF THE COLOMBIAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES PUBLICALLY QUESTIONED THE MIN'S STATEMENTS AND SUGGESTED THAT A CONTRACT BETWEEN UNIV AND STUDENT MUST ALSO EXACT REQUIREMENTS FROM THE STUDENT. THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRE PRIVATELY WORRIED ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES FOR NON-GOVT UNIVERSITIES IF STUDENTS WERE NOT OBLIGATED IN ANY WAY BY THE "MATRICULATION CONTRACT." EDITORIALS IN MAJOR BOGOTA NEWSPAPERS HAVE ALSO ASKED ESSENTIALLY THE SAME QUESTION, POINTING TO THE WIDESPREAD DAMAGE TO THE TADEO LOZANO BY STUDENTS AND THEIR REJECTION OF OFFERS TO BUY AS IMPLIED EXAMPLES OF WHAT ONE-SIDED OBLIGATIONS CAN CAUSE. BOGOTA'S EL ESPECTADOR ALSO FAULTED MIN DURAN FOR HIS UNREASONABLE ATTACK AGAINST THE DIRECTOR OF THE TADEO LOZANO AND, BY IMPLICATION, AGAINST OTHER PRIVATE EDUCATORS, WHO HAVE, ON THE WHOLE, PERFORMED WELL. TAKING A DIFFERENT TACK, LEFTIST COMMENTATOR, ENRIQUE SANTOS CALDERON, WROTE IN EL TIEMPO THAT, INDEED, THERE IS EVIDENCE OF QUESTIONABLE USE OF FUNDS BY THE TADEO LOZANO DIRECTORS, AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN GENERAL ARE PROSPERING AT THE EXPENSE OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE NATION.

5. THE CRISIS NOW AWAITS PRESIDENTIAL ATTENTION AND THE RESULTING DECISIONS WILL HAVE SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THE WAKE OF THE MIN'S EXPOSITION OF WHAT HE MAINTAINED IS THE GOVT'S NEW PHILOSOPHY CONCERNING THE PLACE AND CONDUCT OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS WITHIN NATIONAL EDUCATION. VAKY  
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PAGE 03 BOGOTA 04338 131357Z

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**To:** STATE  
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